



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS



Week Ending: April 10, 2011

Number: 5

Released: April 11, 2011

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING APRIL 10, 2011

Rain throughout Virginia limited field activities but helped small grains. Cooler temperatures limited pasture growth. Days suitable for fieldwork were 3.8. Corn producers continue to prepare their fields for no-till planting and some have already begun planting. Vegetable growers continue to prepare their beds for summer crops while onions, potatoes, greens and other root crops were already in the ground. Wheat fields were top-dressed with nitrogen and fungicide was applied to the crop.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	2	4	86	8
April 10, 2011	0	6	83	11

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	8	22	68	2
April 10, 2011	4	18	75	3

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**



Virginia Tech

Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu

Virginia State University



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	7	40	49	3
Livestock	1	7	31	51	10
Hay, Other	0	2	56	40	2
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	55	42	2
Winter Wheat	0	2	18	54	26
Barley	0	4	28	58	10
Oats	0	0	32	68	0
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	35	55	10
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	48	35	17
Apples, All	0	0	63	37	0
Peaches	1	2	76	21	0
Grapes	0	0	55	45	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	9	2	14	15
Summer Potatoes	92	74	NA	NA

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 10, 2011

City	Temperature						Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	66	40	85	30	53	1	1.67	4.36	-0.48	7.77	-3.65
Norfolk	69	46	86	37	57	3	0.35	3.32	-1.78	9.20	-3.23
Richmond	69	43	87	32	56	2	0.21	4.54	-0.56	9.10	-2.56
Roanoke	67	43	86	32	55	2	1.79	6.06	1.18	9.08	-2.12
Wash/Dulles	64	38	85	30	51	2	0.73	5.83	1.32	9.91	-0.41

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

Many days of rainfall with temperatures in 30's to 80's.

PRINCE WILLIAM

Significant rains two days this week

WESTERN

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Over an inch of rain fell on most of Rockbridge this week, limiting field activities but helped with the winter cereal crops, pastures, and hayfields. Cool temperatures limited pasture growth but hay consumption by livestock is declining due to increasing pasture availability.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

Areas of the county received spotty showers last week. Moisture was below normal average for the year

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Small grain crops are growing well and benefiting from recent rains and fertilizer applications. Warmer weather should produce good growth. Many corn producers are preparing fields for no-till planting and a few producers have already begun corn planting. Most will start this week. Full-season soybean fields are also being readied. Vegetable farmers are laying plastic and preparing beds for summer crops. Onions, potatoes, and other root crops have been planted, as well as early greens.

CHESTERFIELD (Joan D Poore)

Spotty showers throughout the county last week

CUMBERLAND

Freezing weather in the evenings have probably killed the peach blooms for this year.

CENTRAL (continued)

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

The past week saw a flurry of activity from spray buggies and corn planters. A lot of planting work got done this week. After a terrible winter the small grain is finally beginning to show the results of the late winter early spring nitrogen fertilization and crops look decidedly better. Wide swings in temperature with a high last week of 86 followed by a frost that killed my first broccoli sets.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

As the weather allowed, producers continued to plant corn and applied fertilizer and pesticides to corn ground. Some producers finished topdressing wheat with nitrogen and applied fungicides to the crop.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

Corn planting begins. Small grain N applications, lime spreading, soil sampling, fertilizer and herbicide applications, and land prep for vegetables are activities of the week. Small grains look good but need continued moisture. There are no signs of disease so far. Commodity prices are volatile. Ground temperatures should go up this week. Gypsum applications and land prep for vegetables are underway. Pastures are greening up.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Damaging hail as large as 2.5 inches in diameter combined with high winds caused damages throughout Lee and Scott Counties. Rains totaling 1.5 inches in 2 hour time made creeks and rivers rise. No noted damages to crops.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

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SOUTHEASTERN

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

The winter wheat is doing a little better after rains. Pastures are slowly improving. Some fields are still wet with recent rains. Corn planting has started with the recent warming trend.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells, Sussex ANR Agent)

Some much needed scattered rain showers fell over the area this week giving us less than an inch. Small grain has responded well to late N application and rainfall. Corn planting got into gear this week as weather warms up. Lime and fertilizer applications continued, along with land preparations for peanut. Herbicide applications for soybean and cotton are underway.

CHESAPEAKE CITY (Watson Lawrence)

We are off to a slow start with corn planting. Occasional showers are limiting fields where tillage and planting got started last week. More showers anticipated this week are likely to continue to challenge planting. Wheat crop is progressing well.



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